REMARKS

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended.

Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended to omit "according to JIS K 7122" and to change the term "calorie" to "enthalpy." No new matter has been added.

The specification is also amended to change the term "calorie" to "enthalpy." No new matter is added.

Claims 3, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

In response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3 and 5. Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended to omit "according to JIS K 7122" and to change the term "calorie" to "enthalpy" as suggested by the Examiner. The specification has been amended to change the word "calorie" to "enthalpy," as suggested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

As amended, the claims define Applicants' claimed compositions. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP-08-157791 or JP-08-311419.

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse for the following reasons.

JP-08-157791 discloses (i) an adhesive layer consisting of an ethylene-α-olefin copolymer having a melting enthalpy of 61 J/g in Example 1, and (ii) an adhesive layer consisting of an ethylene-α-olefin copolymer having a melting enthalpy of 71 J/g in Example 2,

respectively. However, these melting enthalpies (61 J/g and 71 J/g) do not meet the requirement (a) recited in Claim 1 of the present invention.

Although JP-08-311419 discloses nothing about such a melting enthalpy, a melting enthalpy can be calculated based on a density of a polyethylene resin used for an adhesive layer disclosed in Example 1 (density = 0.900 g/cm^3) and Example 2 (density = 0.885 g/cm^3) of said prior art as follows by a method known in the art (for example, "New Edition Macromolecule Analysis Handbook" published by Kinokuniya Shoten Co., Ltd. (1995)). The following calculation consists of the two steps of:

(i) calculating crystallinity based on a density using the following formula (I), wherein d is a found density; d_a is a density of a complete amorphous polymer (in case of the polyethylene resin, d_a is usually 0.856 g/cm^3; and d_c is a density of a complete crystalline polymer (in case of the polyethylene resin, d_c is usually 1.000 g/cm^3),

$$\text{crystallinity (\%)} = [(d - d_a)/(d_c\, d_a)] \times (d_c/d) \times 100 \qquad \text{(I)}$$

and then, (ii) further calculating a melting enthalpy based on said crystallinity using the following formula (II), wherein crystal melting enthalpy is 281.07 J/g in case of the polyethylene resin,

$$\text{melting enthalpy (J/g)} = \text{crystal melting enthalpy (J/g)} \times \text{crystallinity (\%)}/100 \qquad \text{(II)}.$$

Results are shown in the following Table A.

Table A

	d (g/cm^3)	melting enthalpy (J/g)
Example 1	0.900	95.4
Example 2	0.885	64.0

The above melting enthalpies (95.4 J/g and 64.0 J/g) do not meet the requirement (a) recited in Claim 1 of the present invention.

Incidentally, when the requirement (a) is not met, a good stickiness (high peel strength) cannot be obtained. Please see, for example, Applicants' Comparative Example 1 (melting calorie = 86 J/g) of the present invention. This result demonstrates the unexpected superiority of the claimed recitation. Accordingly, the cited references neither disclose nor suggest Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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